



College Algebra -202430-Math 1014-006 (3 Credit Hours)
Texas A&M University–San Antonio
Department of Sciences and Mathematics
Fall 2024

Instructor: Albert Alvarado
Classroom: Classroom Hall 207
Office: Classroom Hall 216

E-mail: aalvarado@tamusa.edu
Class Time: 8:30-9:20 AM
Office hours: MW 11 AM-12:15 PM

*Office Hours will be in person or online by appointment.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Catalog Description: In-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conics may be included. This course meets the standards for the Mathematics category of courses under the core curriculum. This course acts as a support course for Math 1314.

Required Textbook & Materials:

1. College Algebra with *MyMathLab*, 8th edition, by Blitzer
2. [Desmos](https://www.desmos.com/calculator) software which can be found at <https://www.desmos.com/calculator> ([Desmos](https://www.desmos.com/calculator) is the next generation of graphing calculator: in-browser, beautiful, and free).

Other Materials: You are allowed a non-graphing calculator. Please purchase the TI 36 XPro calculator for your work and your tests. This calculator will best assist you with the problems of this class.

Class Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend classes as scheduled and be prepared to participate in discussions, in-class exercises, quizzes and problem presentation. Class attendance is taken at the beginning or end of each class. You are strongly encouraged to attend all classes. If an unavoidable situation prevented you from being on time or if you must leave early, please minimize class interruption.

NOTE: Graphic calculators, cell phones, laptops, i-pads, kindles, and any other electronic/mobile devices are absolutely NOT allowed during the quizzes/tests/exams. Once found, your quizzes/tests/exams would receive zero credit. If this happened in a recursive manner, the instructor would report this to the university as an academic dishonesty issue.

Blackboard: Students are responsible for checking blackboard regularly for announcements, assignments, and other support materials posted on Blackboard. It is solely the student's responsibility to be aware of class updates.

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Would ne good to indicate Blackboard link or something as to how they will acquire it.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

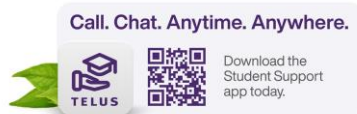
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability.

Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct

(<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website

(<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Option 1 - No Use of Generative AI Permitted

Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates:

August 26	First day of class
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
November 11	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
November 19	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
November 27	Study Day – No classes
November 28-30	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 5	Last day of classes
December 6	Study Day – No classes
December 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

Tentative Schedule*

Week	Topics
1	Mutual introduction. <i>Student Support:</i> Open discussion session/college mathematics learning awareness week for students.
2	Discuss the relations between pairs of numbers, and the vertical line test. <i>Student Support:</i> Review interval notations using parentheses, brackets, and braces; in particular, discuss those containing $\pm\infty$.
3	Discuss symbolic evaluations with $(-x)^2$ and $(-x)^3$ involved as well as $(3 - 2x)^2$ and $(2x - 3)^2$ etc. <i>Student Support:</i> Review numerical evaluations such as $(-1)^2 = 1$ and $(-1)^3 = -1$ etc. as well as the quadratic formulae $(a \pm b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 \pm 2ab$ and $a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$.
4	Discuss the concepts of even/odd functions, increasing/decreasing/constant functions, as well as the local maximum/minimum of the given functions. <i>Student Support:</i> Review basic numerical transformations such as fraction additions and multiplications like $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{2}$ etc.
5	Discuss analytic domain problems such as $\frac{3x+2}{\sqrt{3-2x}}$ as well as $\frac{\sqrt{3x-2}}{2x-5}$ and $\frac{3x+2}{x^2-2x-3}$ as well as $\frac{3x-2}{x^2-2x-3}$. <i>Student Support:</i> Review quadratic factorizations such as $x^2 - 2x - 3 = (x + 1)(x - 3)$ and $x^2 - 2x + 1 = (x - 1)^2$ using multiple methods.
6	Discuss combinations and compositions of a linear function and a quadric function etc. <i>Student Support:</i> Review the power rule such as $x^2 \cdot x^3 = x^5$ as well as $(x^2)^3 = x^6$; review the radical functions; in particular, $\sqrt{-1}$ DNE as well as $\sqrt[3]{-1} = -1$, and $\sqrt[3]{x^2} = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ as well as $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}} = x^{-\frac{2}{3}}$ etc.
7	Discuss the horizontal line test and the 4-steps algorithm in identifying the inverse functions. <i>Student Support:</i> Review symbolic transformations such as complex fraction additions and multiplications like $\frac{2}{x+1} + \frac{3}{x-1}$ and $\frac{x-1}{2x+3} \cdot \frac{3x-2}{x+6}$ etc.
8	Discuss the basics of polynomial functions starting from quadratic polynomial functions. <i>Student Support:</i> Review general factorization rule $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ with $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.
9	Discuss the rational zero theorem and synthetic division. <i>Student Support:</i> Review the global behavior of general polynomial functions determined by their leading terms $a_n x^n$.
10	Discuss the rational zero theorem and synthetic division (continued), and discuss the rational functions focusing on vertical, horizontal (and slant) asymptotes as well as their zeros - identify their domains. <i>Student Support:</i> Review symbolic multiplications such as $x^2(3x + 2)(5x - 4)$.
11	Discuss the rational functions focusing on vertical, horizontal (and slant) asymptotes as well as their zeros - identify their domains (continued). <i>Student Support:</i> Review factoring by grouping for polynomial functions of degree 3.
12	Discuss polynomial and rational inequalities. <i>Student Support:</i> Review the definition of exponential and logarithmic functions.
13	Common Final Exam Review Sessions I. Discuss exponential and logarithmic functions including their appropriate bases and forms, their fixed points, their increasing/decreasing properties as well as other basic properties.
14	Common Final Exam Review Sessions II. Solve basic linear and quadratic exponential and logarithmic equations.
15	Common Final Exam Review Sessions III. Discuss matrices and their determinants, and solve systems of linear equations using Cramer's Rule.

** Specific content may be revised as deemed necessary by instructor. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. You will be notified in class, by email, as well as on Blackboard Announcement for those updates.*

Syllabus is subject to change at the Instructor's Discretion